

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1945

Including the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1945**

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time):

BERTRAM SUGGIT, M.B., Ch.B. (Leeds and Manchester), D.P.H. (Cambs.).

### CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

(also Designated Housing Officer, Inspector under Petroleum Acts, Shops Acts, and Authorized Officer, Factories Act): ARTHUR JUMP, F.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods).

### ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS:

Russell F. Forryan, M.S.I.A. (on military service).

Bertram J. Drew, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods).

Ronald W. Bashford, M.S.I.A. Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods).

### CLERK AND ASSISTANT:

LISTER H. HOOK (on military service).

### TEMPORARY CLERK AND ASSISTANT:

ROBERT A. HUNT (on military service)
T. ORME

### To the Chairman and Members of the Letchworth Urban District Council

Mrs. Harvey and Gentlemen,

At the request of the Ministry of Health, and in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Orders, the following report is submitted. It is the twenty-seventh report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of your district. The report covers the period from the 1st January to 31st December, 1945. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the report is considerably curtailed, but it does contain tables of vital statistics of the district for the years 1940 to 1945 inclusive

### SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 4,905 acres.

Inhabited Houses. There were 5,148 occupied dwellings according to the rate books at 31st December.

Population. The Registrar General estimates the civilian population for the year 1945 to be 19.970. Having regard to local information at my disposal, 20,220 is, I think, a more accurate estimate. Undoubtedly, during the year, the population fluctuated considerably from time to time. Most of the evacuees returned to their home towns and directed workers were constantly being moved in and out.

Rateable Value. The rateable value is estimated to be £167,613 and the product of a penny rate as £672.

### Vital Statistics

	I	Births			
Live births.	Legitimate Illegitimate	• • •	Total 295 26	Males 163 12	Females 132 14
	Totals		321	175	146

The birth rate is 16.07 which compares with that of 16.1 for England and Wales. Last year the rate was higher, it being 19.5.

		Total	Males	Females
Still births:	Legitimate	 14	7	7
	Illegitimate	 1	1	
	Totals	 15	8	7

The still birth rate per thousand live and still births is 44, and per thousand civilian population 0.75; this latter rate compares with the rate of 0.46 for England and Wales.

### Deaths

Total 173; Males 83, Females 90.

Thirty-three less than last year. The death rate is 8.6 per thousand civilian population and compares with 11.4 for England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal causes. There were no deaths and the Maternal Mortality Rate is therefore nil.

### Infant Mortality

Legitimate Illegitimate	 Total 6 —	Males 4	Females 2
Totals	 6	4	2

The rate per thousand live births is 18.7 and compares with the rate of 46 for England and Wales. This is exceptionally low, and is the best rate since 1942 when it was only 14 which was a record.

The causes of deaths were:

Ref. N	0.		Males	Females
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system		3	2
13	Cancer, buccal cavity, etc		()	5
14	Cancer, stomach and duodenum		2	()
15	Cancer, breast		()	3
16	Cancer, all other sites		9	7
17	Diabetes		0	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions		13	10
19	Heart disease		18	25
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	n	2	6
21	Bronchitis		3	4
22	Pneumonia		2	1
23	Other respiratory diseases		2	0
24	Ulcer, stomach or duodenum		1	1
26	Appendicitis		()	1
27	Other digestive diseases		6	0
28	Nephritis		2	4
31	Premature birth		1	1
32	Congenital malformations, injuries	, etc.	3	1
33	Suicide		0	1
34	Road traffic accidents		2	1
35	Other violent causes		1	4
	All other causes		13	12
	Т	otals	83	90

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year; there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles, whooping cough or diarrhoea (under two years of age).

Tables I, If and III give comparative vital statistics for the years 1940 to 1945 inclusive. Death Rates and Birth Rates are based on the Registrar General's estimate of the population unless otherwise stated.

It will be seen that the health of the town has been remarkably good during the year, the birth rate was equal to that for England and Wales, the death rate was much lower and the infant mortality exceptionally low.

### TABLE I

Cancer.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
No. of deaths—				P		
Males	8	16	19	9	12	11
Females	16	18	11	19	20	15
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
Puerperal Sepsis.						
No. of cases notified	1		2	1	1	
No. of deaths			_	1		-
Death rate, 1,000 births	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						
No. of cases notified—	_				4.0	. =
Males	15	13	8		12	17
Females	5	5	7	4	6 0.86	1.05
Attack rate, 1,000 pop	0.98	8.0	0.7	0.7	0.86	1.0.)
No of deaths—						
Males	7	8	_	1	-1	- 5
Females	3	4	3		1	2
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.04	0.28	0.25
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						
·						
No. of cases notified—	0	-	C	6	1	3
Males	3 3	5 3	6 2	6	4 3	6
Females	0.29			0.5		
Attack rate, 1,000 pop	0.23	(),,)	0.07	0,0	0,00	0.10
No of deaths—					0	
Males	1	- •	2		2	
Females	0.01	0.0	0.1	0.01	0.10	0.0
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.04	0,0	0.1	0.04	0.19	0.0
	4.					

# TABLE II

# URBAN DISTRICT OF LETCHWORTH

1945

1944

No. of inhabited houses December	census	census						
31st	2,708	3,897	5,109		5.111	5.111	5.111	5.148
Population—local estimate	10,832	14,808	21,968	21,977	21,977	21,977	21,466	20,220
No. of births	219	217			357	338	407	321
For infant mortality*			328	302				
For birth rate*			311	281				
Birth rate (based on local estimate								
of population)	20.2	14.6	14.1	12.7	16.2	15.38	19.0	15.8
No. of infant deaths	12	6	16	12	5	14	18	9
Infant mortality	55	41.4	48	39	14	+1	44.2	18.7
Maternal mortality		17.7				8.6	4.0	
No. of deaths	77	105	175	228	195	203	206	173
Crude death rate (local estimate								
of population)	7.1	7	7.9	10.3	8.9	9.5	9.6	8.5
Corrected death rate (local estimate								
of population)		7.6	8.7	1				ì
Population — Registrar General's								
Birth rate (hosed on Reg Con	10,302	14,454	20,290	22,380	21,510	21,420	20,830	19,970
estimate of population)	913	15.0	15.3	19.5	16.6	15.7	10.5	16.07
Death rate (based on Reg. Gen.	I			1			2007	10.01
estimate of population):—								
Crude	7.5	7.2	8.6	10.1	90.6	9.4	9.8	8.6
Corrected		7.8	9.5					

\*Special war-time figures given by Registrar General.

### TABLE III

### ENGLAND AND WALES

	1921	1931	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945				
	census	census										
Birth rate	22,4	15.8	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1				
Death rate	12.1	12.3	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4				
Infant												
mortality	83	66	55	59	49	49	46	46				
One hundred and forty-eight smaller towns (25,000—50,000) England and Wales.												
Birth Rate	22.7	15.6	15.7	16.4	18.4	19.4	20.9	19.2				
Death rate		11.3	12.8	13.0	12.1	12.7	12.4	12.3				
Infant mortality	84	62	54	56	46	46	14	43				
	L	ETCH	WOR	TH U	IRBAN	V						
Birth rate	21.3	15.0	<b>15</b> .3	12.5	16.6	15.7	19.5	16.07				
Death rate	7.5	7.8	9.5	10.1	9.06	9.4	9.8	8.6				
Infant												

# SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

39 14 41 44.2 18.7

- (i) Staff. For full details see inside front cover.
- (ii) Other services.

mortality ... 55 41.4 48

- (a) Laboratory facilities. Advantage has been taken of the services of the Ministry of Health Emergency Laboratories. The arrangements made for the reception of swabs at the Health Office and for the swabs to be taken direct to the laboratory at Lister hospital, is working satisfactorily, and proving of benefit as the medical practitioners now receive the results much earlier. Fifty swabs were dealt with during the year.
  - (b) Ambulance facilities. No change.
  - (c) Nursing in the home. No change.

- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Sick Bay and Clinic set up at Letchworth House to deal with evacuated children continued to work well until August when it was closed on the instructions of the Ministry of Health. It was opened in September 1939 and during the six years it carried out excellent work and proved of great service. I should like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the untiring and capable efforts of Sister Freeman (Mrs. Hayward) who was responsible for its smooth running and for much of its success. Temporary arrangements were made for the treatment of scabies which proved quite effective until the end of the year when a Scabies Clinic was set up at the Report Centre in Gernon Road. We are also indebted to Sister Freeman for training the personnel of this Clinic. The County Council in September commenced a minor ailment clinic for school children at the Howard Hall. The other treatment Centres and Clinics have carried on normally and are doing excellent work.
  - (c) Hospitals (public and voluntary). No change.

For details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors reference should be made to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

# SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water. There has been no material change during the year.

In response to circular 28/46, issued by the Ministry of Health, I submit the following information:

- (i) (a) The supply has been satisfactory in quality.

  (b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
  - (b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply is sampled bacteriologically every two weeks, the samples being taken systematically at the pumping stations and from various points within the area of supply. The results were satisfactory. Chemical analyses are taken every four weeks. The results were satisfactory and showed little variation.

- (iii) There is no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action was necessary to deal with contamination. The whole supply is subjected to chlorination treatment.
- (v) With the exception of five cottages at Radwell in the extreme North-East and two houses and a petrol filling station and cafe at Jacks Hill to the South-West, all the properties in the Urban District are provided with a direct piped supply of water from the Company's mains. There are no standpipes. The supplies from the private wells are kept under observation and they have all been checked by analysis.
- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage. No material change has taken place. The question of extending the sewage works is receiving the serious consideration of the Council.
- 2. Rivers and Streams. No change.
- 3. (i) Closet accommodation. No change.
- (ii) Public cleansing. The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. Owing to shortage of manpower and vehicles it proved difficult to maintain an efficient collection of house refuse. The house refuse is disposed of by "controlled tipping" and this is now done on land adjacent to the Baldock Urban District Council's sewage works by arrangement with that Authority.
- (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (viii). These matters are fully dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
- (vii) Swimming baths and pools. (a) Public. The ozone open air swimming pool in the Norton Common continues to be well patronized and there were 72,726 attendances during the year. A series of samples were submitted to bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory.

The pool is under the supervision of Mr. G. T. Hill, the Surveyor, and he and his staff are to be congratulated on maintaining a consistently high hygienic standard.

### SECTION D. HOUSING

No new permanent houses were built during the year but thirty-seven of the prefabricated bungalows in Bedford Road were completed and occupied. This did relieve some of the serious overcrowding. Many of the houses in the Urban District contain a large number of occupants, and in order to ascertain the exact position it was decided to carry out a survey of the district. This was commenced in April under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and full details will be found in his report. One interesting fact is that the average number of persons per house was found to be 3.8.

### Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	177
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	285
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	29
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	45
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	62
Actio	on ur	nder Statutory powers during the year:	
(a)		cedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the sing Act. 1936	nil

(p)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners	4
		nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	nil
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act,	nil
	nedy of defects during the year without service of form otice:  Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered	a
Нои	fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	56
	(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (ii) Number of families dwelling therein	27 59 20
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	27
	(c) (i) Number of eases of overcrowding relieved during the year (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	9 81
	(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:	
	(i) Number of cases	2
	(ii) Number of families concerned	5
	(iii) Number of persons	18

# SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Much time and thought was given to this work during the year and every effort was made in an endeavour to ensure that the residents were supplied with wholesome food and drink. Special attention was paid to the milk supply particularly to secure that the milk was of good keeping quality and clean. This objective was not easy of attainment having regard to the difficulties of the purveyors obtaining adequate supplies of capable labour and materials. Details of the work will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

# SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### 1. General.

During the year three hundred and eighty-one eases of infectious diseases were notified as compared with one hundred and eighty-seven during 1944. The increase was mainly due to the prevalence of measles.

Catarrhal Jaundice. This disease in its varying forms has been notifiable in this Region since November 1943, and four cases were notified during the year; the same as in 1944. Two of the patients were children of school age and two were adults. Details of each ease were submitted to the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health who is engaged in carrying out a special investigation in connection with this complaint.

Chicken Pox. Seventy-six cases were notified compared with fifty-four during 1944. Fifty-two of the cases occurred in children under the age of ten years and there were twenty-three older children and one adult.

Diphtheria. One case was notified, the patient being a woman aged 34 years and the infection was undoubtedly contracted whilst the patient was abroad.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Four hundred and twenty children were immunised during 1945 and it is estimated the percentages of child population immunised at December 31st are as follows: Under the age of 5 years, 75%; Aged 5 years and under 15 years, 92%; or taking the child population as a whole, 85%. It can be said that these percentages are satisfactory and it is of interest that the incidence of diphtheria has decreased during the last few years. It is the object of the present scheme to secure that as many children as possible are immunised immediately after their first birthday and then to give a secondary or reinforcing injection when they enter school. Sixty-six of these were done during the year.

Dysentery. No cases were notified during the year.

Erysipelas. Seven cases were notified compared with eleven during 1944. All the patients were treated at home and their ages were all greater than twenty years.

Measles. This disease was prevalent until early May, the epidemic commencing in December 1944. During the year two hundred and sixty-seven cases were notified compared with seventeen during 1944. The lower age groups were chiefly affected, the greatest number of cases being notified in the 5 to 10 year age group in which there were one hundred and thirty-eight cases. One of the cases received hospital treatment but I am glad to report that none of the cases proved fatal.

Para-Typhoid A. One case was notified, the patient being an Indian subject aged 22 years. In this instance the disease was not of local origin or of primary character.

Pneumonia. Five cases were notified compared with twenty-two in 1944. Three of the cases received hospital treatment. Four of the cases were adults the fifth one being a child aged 4 years.

Scarlet Fever. Thirteen cases were notified compared with thirty-nine during 1944. Twelve of the cases were removed to the isolation hospital and one case was treated at home. The

cases occurred sporadically throughout the year and there were no secondary cases. There were no deaths and the disease was of a mild type.

Undulant Fever. One case was brought to my notice, the patient being a man aged 66 years. The origin of infection in this case was somewhat obscure and the milk supply to the household was "heat treated." The patient was connected with a business concerned with animal feeding stuffs.

Whooping Cough. Only six cases were notified compared with thirty-two during 1944. The patients were all under the age of ten years and none was removed to hospital.

### 2. Cancer.

There is no evidence of any abnormal prevalence. During the year there were twenty-six deaths, being eleven males and fifteen females. The death rate per thousand civilian population was 1·3.

### 3. Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the 1925 Regulations or the Public Health Act, 1936.

### TUBERCULOS!S

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1945

	N	NEW CASES				DEATHS						
			N	on-			N	on-				
Age Periods	Pulm	onary	Pulme		-Pulm	onary	Pulm	onary				
	M.	F.	Μ.	F.	$\mathbf{M}$ .	F.	Μ.	F.				
0 year	 											
1 ,,	 		1	2								
5 .,	 2			1								
10 ,,	 		1	1								
15 ,,	 	1	-	1								
20 ,,	 3	1				-						
25	 6	2	1	-								
35	 4	-					-					
45 ,,	 1				1	1						
55 .,	 1			1	2	1						
65 and over	 				~ -	_						
Totals Comparative	 17	4	3	6	3	2						
Totals 1944	 12	6	5	1	4	1	2	2				

### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	At all ages	Under 1 year	12	2—3	3-4	45	510	10—15	15 - 20	20-35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Removed to Hospital	Total deaths
Catarrhal jaundice	4	_	_		_	_		2	_	1		1	_		
Chicken pox	76	1	5	8	5	5	28	18	5		1	_	_	-	
Diph- theria	1	_		_	_				_	1		_		1	
Ery- sipelas	7	_			_		_		_	2	1	2	2	_	
Measles 2	267	13	17	30	31	25	138	7	2	3			1	1	
Pneu- monia	5	_	_	_		1				2	_	1	1	3	_
Para- typhoid A	1	_			<del></del> ,					1		_		1	
Scarlet fever	13	_		1	1		7	3	_	1	_			12	_
Undulant fever	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	1	_
Whoopin cough	g 6	1		_	1	1	3	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Totals 3	381	15	22	39	38	32	176	30	7	11	2	4	5	19	

In conclusion I should like to thank both the Council and my colleagues in the Health Department and in all other services for their keen interest and co-operation during the year.

BERTRAM SUGGIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1946. Baldock.

# Report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1945.

In submitting my sixteenth annual report I should have liked to have stated that with the cessation of hostilities it had been possible to resume much of the normal work. Unfortunately this proved to be impracticable, but every effort was made to ensure that all essential matters were attended to as quickly as possible.

The inspectorial staff was increased by one, and Mr. R. W. Bashford commenced duties on the 8th March and this enabled a start to be made with the survey of housing conditions.

Housing. Shortages of building labour and materials restricted repair work to the minimum but it was possible to deal with the serious cases. It may not be generally realised that the supervision of repairs in these abnormal times is difficult and involves many more visits. It is rare indeed for work to be completed without some hold-up having occurred due to the scarcity of skilled craftsmen or materials. Dilapidations, too after many years of neglect have become serious in some cases, making works of repair a major operation. "A stitch in time—" is a very true saying so far as house properties are concerned.

In April the survey into housing conditions was commenced and the third interim report (dated April 1946) gives the following data.

During the twelve months 2.184 houses were surveyed and these contained a total of 8,380 persons, giving an average of 3.83 persons per house. Twenty-eight houses were legally overcrowded, four of these houses were owned by the Council. Bad living conditions were found to exist at twenty other houses and eight of these were owned by the Council. It should be remembered that in assessing the number of occupants to ascertain whether or not a particular house is overcrowded no account is taken of a child under the age of twelve months. This method does restrict the number of overcrowding cases but it fails to take into account that, although the

new addition is small in size, it actually requires more housing room than an adult. Many a married couple who found two rooms, in some instances one room, adequate for their needs discovered when baby came their accommodation was insufficient. Anyone who has seen a young mother endeavouring to cope with the many needs of a young baby within the confines of one or two rooms with many of the essential amenities non-existent realises the need for amendment of the overcrowding standard.

The survey also disclosed that three hundred and seventy-one houses contained two or more families and that a further three hundred and twenty-one were providing accommodation for lodgers. At the other end of the scale a considerable number of three bedroomed houses, some of the parlour type, contained only two occupants. It is thus obvious that on paper the overcrowding could be dealt with to some extent by exchange of houses, but in actual practice it is a complicated and difficult procedure.

During the year nine cases of overcrowding were abated and in addition, conditions were improved in many houses where living conditions were difficult. The completion of nearly forty pre-fabricated bungalows by the end of the year assisted materially in achieving this object.

There was no increase in the number of the cases of verminous conditions, the instances being approximately the same as during 1944. In dealing with this subject one is always reminded of the difficulties involved in the case of the aged person living alone and incapable of properly caring for themselves. One such case was dealt with during the year.

Nuisances. No major difficulties were encountered during the year but representations had to be made once again to obtain a sufficient supply of dustbins. The emission of grit from one boiler installation received attention and an improvement was effected.

Rats. The number of visits made to deal with cases of rat infestation was much less than during 1944. This is encouraging but does not mean that efforts should be relaxed. In

November the County Authority undertook the treatment of the sewers, some four hundred manholes being baited. There were twenty-four "takes" the majority being small ones. The assumed number of rats killed was said to be three hundred and sixty.

Inspection of meat and other foods. Once again the number of animals slaughtered at the Regional Slaughterhouse showed an increase over the previous year and meat inspection was carried on at all times including Sundays and Bank Holidays. In addition regular supervision was made of the wholesale meat depot and of the handling and transport of meat and offals. Representations were made to the proper quarters when the handling or transport was found to be faulty. Butchers' and other food shops were visited frequently and food preparing places kept under close supervision. In the statistical records will be found data showing the amount of infection found in cows' udders. As there is considerable interest in the question of cows milk being infected with tuberculosis the information is worthy of special comment. When interpreting the data it must be borne in mind that the cows slaughtered at the Regional Slaughterhouse were not a typical cross section of the milch herds of Hertfordshire and the adjoining counties, but were old animals, or young ones that had been "culled" for various reasons. Some were definitely known to be "reactors" to the Tuberculin Test and were slaughtered at the instance of the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Officers. During 1945 one thousand three hundred and fifty-five cows were examined and in sixty-seven instances (or 5%) Tubercular type lesions were found in the udder and/ or supramammary lymphatic glands. In two-hundred and ninety-five cases (or 21.7%) the udders were found to be affected with other infections. This means that three hundred and sixty-two cows were probably giving infected milk, or at least, milk that was not of the nature, substance and quality demanded by the purchaser.

During the year much attention was paid to the milk supply and the statistical records indicate the many samples that were taken. The number of complaints from consumers that the milk supplied was of bad keeping quality was much less. The results of the samples however proved that many supplies failed to reach the required standard of cleanliness.

Investigations into the sale of ice cream showed that only four vendors were active. Two were manufacturing and two were selling a pre-packed article made elsewhere. The places of manufacture were kept under close observation.

Factories. It was not possible to carry out a systematic inspection of all premises, but many visits were made to secure enforcement of the Sanitary Accommodation Order. In twelve cases the accommodation was brought up to standard and a number were being dealt with at the close of the year.

Infectious disease. The amount of work carried out in connection with infectious disease prevention should be noted. "Follow up" work is now undertaken in all cases of scabies.

### STATISTICAL RECORDS

1st January—31st December, 1945

GENERAL (under Public Health and Housing Acts):

### (a) Visits and Inspections:

Houses in	spected	under	Publ	ic Healt	th Acts		 148
Houses re	e-inspect	ed und	ler P	ublic H	ealth A	cts	 92
Houses in	spected	under	Hou	sing Ac	ts		 29
Houses re	-inspect	ed und	er H	ousing .	Acts		 16
Houses v	isited re	defect	ive d	lustbins			 91
Housing	Survey:	Form	Ар	rimary			 1
1,	,,	11	A se	econdary	y		
**	,,	٠,	Вр	rimary			 2
1 1				condary			
Special sr	irvey—n	umber	of h	ouses vi	sited		 1702
Visits to 0							
Inhabited	vans in	specteo	ł				 29

Nuisances	investigated					 185
Systematic	investigation	of dis	trict			 101
Special inv	estigations re	watei	· course:	s and	ditches	 15
• •	,•	sewe1	rs			 12
* *	**	indus	strial eff	luvia		 11
• •	**	pigeo	ons			 12
Visits and	inspections t	o ente	rtainmei	nt pre	mises	 4
	,, (	of swin	nming b	aths		 14
••			rworks		• • •	 4
• •	., t	o buria	al groun	ds		 1
Smoke obs	servations				• • •	 Č,
Drains-sr	noke tested					 1.1
Drains—w	ater tested					 30
Drains—co	oloured tested					 3
Visits to w	orks outstand	ing an	d in pro	gress		 552
Number o	f preliminary	notice	es servec	1		 271
Number o	f statutory ne	otices :	served			 4
Visits to s	tables					 13
Visits to p	oiggeries					 10
Visits to f	owl runs					 21
Visits to r	efuse tips					 6
Visits re r	at infestation					 330
Visits to c	onveniences					 16
Miscellane	ous visits					 35
Samples of	f effluent subi	nitted	for ana	lysis		 -
	water submit					 
Special En	nergency Duti	es:				
General C	ivil Defence					 93
Evacuation	n and billetin	g				 18
	entres and Bri					 50
	y Clinics					 25
	y Mortuary					 20
	chools					 6
	trol					4

Food Waste Collection and Salvage			
Troop Billets			
Emergency Water Supplies			
Hostels			
Rest Shelters			
Civil Building control			
(b) Nuisances Abated and Repair Wor	1. C	arried o	., .
			ш.
Choked drains cleared and put into pro-	per	order	
Choked W.C.s cleared			
Drains repaired or relaid			
Inspection chambers built or repaired			
Inspection chamber covers provided			
Intercepting traps fixed or repaired			
W.C.s repaired or renewed			
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or rene	wed		
W.C.s cleansed			
Urinals repaired or renewed			
Soil pipes repaired or renewed			
Vent pipes repaired or renewed			
Fresh Air inlets repaired or renewed			
Gullies repaired or renewed			
Sinks provided or renewed			
Lavatory basins and baths fixed or rene	wed		
Waste pipes repaired or renewed			
Pail closets abolished			
Pail closets repaired			
Chemical Closets			
Septic tanks built or repaired			
Cesspools repaired			
Cesspools emptied and cleansed			
Cesspools abolished			
Water service pipes repaired or renewe			
Wells repaired			
Eaves, guttering and rainwater pipes rep	oaire	d or ren	ewed

Dustoins provided				 	14
Yard paving provided or	repair	red		 	5
Roofs repaired or renewe	ed			 	9
Doors and door frames r	epaired	l or rer	newed	 	25
Windows and frames rep	aired c	or renez	ved	 	14
Lighting and ventilation	improv	zed -		 	7
Fireplaces and ranges rep	paired o	or renev	wed	 	6
Chimney stacks repaired				 	2
Hot water systems repair	ed			 	4
Coppers provided or repa	aired			 	2
Floors repaired or renew	ed			 	19
Food Stores provided				 	2
Staircases repaired				 	5
Ceilings and plaster repa				 	17
External rendering repair	ed or re	enewed		 	3
Brickwork repaired				 	7
Dampness remedied				 	6
Damp-proof courses rene	wed or	r provi	ded	 	1
Overcrowding abated				 	9
Rooms cleansed				 	97
Dairies cleansed and lin	iewashe	ed		 	7
Cowsheds cleansed and I	imewas	hed		 	3
Cowsheds reconditioned				 	1
Bakehouses cleansed				 	9
Slaughterhouses cleansed				 	3
Lairages and stables clear	ised			 	- 3
Filthy houses cleansed				 	S
Filthy ditches cleansed				 	2
Accumulations removed				 	16
Accumulations of manur	e remo	ved		 	1
Animals improperly kept				 	1
Premises and sheds ratpre				 	7
Premises gassed for rats				 	11
Premises baited for rats				 	10
Trapping				 	2

Rat tails brought in Ponds cleansed Ponds treated for in Refuse tips treated Wasp nests destroy	 nosquit for flic	os es and crickets		2 1 32
(c) Infestations:		Council Houses	Other Houses	Visits
D				
Bugs	• • •	7	29	107
Fleas			5	5
Scabies		1	3	9
Lice				_
Crickets			1	1
Ants		3	5	10
Beetles and Cockro	aches	_	23	32
Wasps			17	30
Flies			11	18
Moths			10	12
Earwigs			1	2
Silver fish		2	1	7
Furniture beetle	• • •	2		7

### SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### a) Visits and Inspections:

To abattoir	 754	To food preparing
butchers' shops	 343	places 58
butchers' vans	 29	dairies 243
fish shops	 42	cowsheds 84
other food shops	 149	ice cream vendors 21
cafes	 27	hawkers of food 72
bakehouses	 40	

### (b) Carcases examined:

### (1) At abattoir:

Cows	 1,355	Calves	 2,349
Heifers	 1,049	Sheep	 7,255
Bulls	 128	Pigs	 3,425
Bullocks	 2,384		

### (2) At shops, other premises and vans:

Beasts	 28	Sheep	 	6
Calves	 8	Pigs	 	31

### (c) Condemned as unfit for human food:

### (1) At abattoir:

58	cow carcases	20 calf carcases
28	other beasts' carcases	2 hindquarters English
4	sides English beef	veal

### 

64	forequarters English	10	lb. English veal
	beef		calf heads
22	hindquarters English	48	plucks
	beef	8	lungs
1,922	lb. English beef	17	livers
480	beasts' heads	28	kidneys
2,108	lungs	7	spleens
113	hearts	10	mesenteries
960	livers	107	other organs
238	kidneys	23	sheep carcases
466	beasts' mesenteries	5	forequarters English
238	spleens		mutton
1,735	other organs	32	lb. English mutton
89	pig carcases	17	sheep heads
6	forequarters English	39	plucks
	pork	43	lungs
2	hindquarters English	260	livers
	pork	32	kidneys
277	lb. English pork	12	mesenteries
132	pigs' heads	19	spleens
310	plucks	110	other organs
270	lungs		
105	livers		
212	kidneys		
897	mesenteries		
732	spleens		
892	other organs	Tota	l weight, 127,451 lb.

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (EXCLUDING SHOPS)

No. killed No. inspected	Cattle ex- cluding cows 3,561 3,561	Cows 1,355 1,355	Calves 2,349 2,349	Sheep and Lambs 7,255 7,255	Pigs 3,425 3,425
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
(1) Whole carcases condemned (2) Carcases of which	3	10	14	23	84
some part or organ was condemned  (3) Percentage of the number inspected	386	341	34	328	435
affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	10.9	25.9	2.04	4.3	15.1
Tuberculosis only					
(1) Whole carcases condemned (2) Carcases of which	25	48	6	_	5
some part or organ was condemned	375	438	17		145
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber-culosis	11.2	35.8	0.98		4.3
C010515	1.1.4	0.0	0,50		Tool

Core udder infection. As during the previous year a careful examination was made of the udders of all cows slaughtered, and the results are as follows:

	1944	1945
Number of cows slaughtered	1,607	1,355
Tubercular type lesions		
found in udder and/or		
supramammary lympha-		
tic glands	128 or 7.96%	67 or 5 %
Other udder infection	169  or  10.25%	295 or 21.7%
Total udder infection	297 or 18·48%	362  or  26.7%

### (2) At wholesale depot, shops and vans:

30	lbs. English beef	1	can dried milk
	sheep carcase	695	cans condensed milk
	lbs, imported mutton	502	cans beef
	lbs. imported pork	63	cans pork
	fowls		cans mutton
24	ducks	1	can brawn
2,436	lbs, bacon	7	cans tongue
6	lbs. ham	86	cans meat products
64	lbs, sausage meat		cans fish
45	lbs. sausage rusk meal	351	cans vegetables
13	meat pies	1	can fruit
1	box herrings	82	jars meat and fish
10	boxes fish fillets		paste
2	boxes mixed fish	15	lbs. jam
67	lbs. cheese	21	lbs. marmalade and
2	sacks flour		preserves
6	lb. flour	2	cans syrup
2	lbs. rice	32	pkts, dessert powder
4	lbs. pearl barley	166	packets pudding
21	lbs. oats		mixture
7	pkts. breakfast food	24	lbs. sultanas
106	eggs	4	jars pickles
5	packets dried eggs	29	jars relish
59	pkts. egg substitute	121	jars mustard
1	lb. coffee	36	lbs, sweets and toffee
10	lbs, tea		

### (d) Slaughter of Animals:

Regular notices of slaughter received	1
Notices of occasional or emergency slaughter received	63
Applications for licences to slaughter animals	15
Number of licences granted to slaughtermen	15
Amount of fees received	16/-

### (e) Milk Supply:

Five farms are registered, four being licensed for the production of Accredited milk. There are ten retail purveyors of milk, eight having premises within the Urban District. Six are licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk; there is one producer/retailer of Accredited milk; one retailer is licensed to pasteurize and sell pasteurized milk.

Licensing fees amounted to £4 17s, 8d,

### Summary of results of milk samples taken:—

		Tuberculin	Accredited
		Tested milk	$_{ m milk}$
Number taken		26	5
Methylene blue test satisfied		19	4
failed		7	1
B. Coli. Absent in 1/100 ml.		16	4
Present		10	1
Bacterial Count—number subm	itted	21	5
Highest count		568,800	180,000
Lowest		300	10,400
Average		53,505	74,240
Resazurin Test-number subm	itted	12	5
Class A (market)		8	5
В		2	
C		2	_
		Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Number taken		8	59
Methylene blue test—			
Number submitted	d	1	31
Satisfied		1	26
Failed		- Marine	5
B. Coli number submitted		7	59
Absent in $1/100$ ml.		6	26
Present		1	33

### Summary of results of milk samples taken—(contd.)

				urized ilk	Ordi mi	
Bacterial Count—num	ber subn	nitted	11		56	
Highest count			28,00	00	810,0	000
Lowest			40	OC	1,	100
Average			15,13	50	72,	301
Phosphatase Test—						
Number	submitte	d		4		6
Passed		• • •		4		5
Failed			-			1
Resazurin Test—numb	ber subn	nitted	-			11
Class A (market)			-	_		11
В			-			_
C					_	
Milk Acidity Tests						
Number carried out	at office	• • •				17
Satisfactory						10
Unsatisfactory						7

### Special samples

Five samples of ordinary milk and three of Tuberculin Tested milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli with negative results.

Five other samples of milk were examined for the presence of haemolytic streptococci, also with negative results.

The Milk (Ministry of Food) Regulation 55 G The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

Thirty-four samples were taken during the year for and on behalf of the County Council.

### (f) Adulteration:

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the district, the officer being G. F. Hart, Esq., and all complaints of adulterated food are referred to him.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a)	Visits and inspection	ns:					
	re scabies clinic		• • •	59			
	diphtheria ii				• • •	• • •	6
	venereal dise	_			• • •	• • •	2
	swabs taken i		• • •		50		
	to infected hous						429
	children's an	d nur	sing hoi	nes			20
							14
	Number of school	ol noti	ces sent		• • •		91
(b)	Disinfection:						
	General cases					48 1	rooms
	Schoolrooms					1	
	Hospital wards					2	
	Tuberculosis cas	es				35 1	rooms
	Evacuation and	Civil	Defence	e		2	
	Vehicles					2	
	Library books					16	
	Disinfestation					30	
	Bedding stoved:						
	Beds					1	
	Mattresses					3	
	Pillows						
	Blankets					2 7	
	Quilts					1	
	Sheets				• • •	4	
	Eiderdowns					1	
	Bedding destroy	ed:					
	Mattresses					2	
	Pade					2	

### FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

				Iı	nspections	s No	tices
Mechanical factor	ies				86	9	3
Non-mechanical fa	actor	ies			27	4	1
Workplaces					25	2	2
Outworkers		• • •			2		
Γ	)efec	ts foun	d and re	medi	e d		
2	cjec	is joun		mean		Reme	diad
Want of cleanlines	2				7 Ound	<b>1</b> (CIIIC)	
Want of ventilation		• • • •	•••		2	2	
Want of drainage			•••	• • •	1	1	
Other nuisances			• • •	• • •	7	$\epsilon$	
			* * *	• • • •	,	,	,
Sanitary accommo	dati	on					
	• • •		• • •	• • •	6	9	3
Unsuitable or	def	ective			11	Ç	)
Not separate	for	sexes					_
Other offences		• • •			2	9	2
Matters referred	to :	H.M.	Inspecto	r of			
Factories	• • •	• • •	•••	• • •	• • •	• • •	3
	DD	TD OI		oma			
PETROLEUM ACTS							
Visits and inspect	ions						32
Number of contra	vent	ions fo	und				5
Nun	iber	remedi	ed				5
Number of licences granted							
(a) petroleum sp	_		oducts				40
(b) carbide of carbide		-					6
Amount of fees received £23 7s. 6d.							

### SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops on Register					214
Visits and inspections					9
Number of contraventions found					
Number remedied	•••	• • •			
GAME LIC	CEN	CES			
Visits and inspections		• • •		• • •	2
Number of licenses granted		• • •			1
Amount of fees received	• • •	• • •	• • •		5/-
HAIRDRESSERS AND E	AR.	BERS	BYEL.	AWS	
Number of visits and inspections					24
Number of contraventions found		• • •			
Number remedied					

Despite the pressure of emergency and special duties it will be noted that a considerable amount of normal routine work was carried out and this was only accomplished by the loyal co-operation of all concerned. I once again wish to record my appreciation of the help and ready assistance of Mr. B. J. Drew.

### ARTHUR JUMP,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The Council House, Letchworth.

August 1946.







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